

[Chief Seattle's Address]

Folklore Dup.

Circumstances under which Material was obtained.

STATE: Washington

MAKE OF WORKER: Verna L. Stamolis

ADDRESS: Post Office Box 112, University Station, Seattle, Wash.

DATE: December 22, 1938

SUBJECT: Pioneers

1. Publication from which obtained and authors Scrap-book No. 2, Clarence B. Bagley (Deceased); Seattle Sunday Star, [N?]. A. Smith.

2. Date and time obtained: July, 1938

3. Place obtained: Northwest Room, University of Washington Library

Personal History of Informant

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NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT: Charles B. Bagley (Deceased) Seattle, Washington

1. Ancestry: American
2. Place and date of birth: November 30, 1843; near Dixon, Illinois
3. Family: Methodist Protestant Church
4. Places lived in: Chicago, Illinois, Salem, Oregon; Olympia, Wash.; Seattle, Wash.; and Pennsylvania.
5. Education: Willamette; Salem; Oregon; Allegheny College, Meadowville, Pa.
6. Occupations and accomplishments: Printer, editor, writer, collector of Internal Revenue.
7. Special Interest: Collection of Historical data and files of old newspapers; thirteen large scrapbooks; folders of original letters of Washington pioneers.
8. Description: Very tall, thin, genial; youthful even when nearly ninety years old.

Note This account was taken from the Scrapbook of Clarence B. Bagley, a famous pioneer.

Quote Scrap-book No. 2, p. 102: "H. A. Smith has written from actual knowledge probably the best sketch of Chief Seattle. This account appeared in the Seattle Sunday Star, October 29, 1877. 'Chief Seattle was the largest Indian I ever saw and by far the noblest looking. He stood nearly six feet tall, was broad-shouldered, deep-chested and finely proportioned. His eyes were large, intelligent and expressive. He was usually silent,

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sober-mannered, and his lightest word was law. He had a wonderful voice, deep-toned, sonorous, and was an eloquent speaker.

"When Governor Stevens first came to Seattle to tell the Indians that he had been appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs for Washington Territory, the people of Seattle received him in the street in front of Dr. Maynard's office. The bay swarmed with canoes, and the shore was lined with dusky faces. The Governor was introduced to the Indians by Dr. Maynard. Governor Stevens spoke to them in a plain, straightforward manner, explaining his mission.

"When he had finished speaking, Chief Seattle arose with great dignity, and pointing to the sky, he began his address."

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"The sky has wept tears of compassion on our fathers for untold centuries. Today it is fair; tomorrow it may be overcast with clouds.

"You say that the Great White Chief has sent us word that he wishes to buy our lands, and to give us a reservation where we can live in comfort. This is generous. We will ponder your offer and we will tell you the answer. But I make this condition: That we shall not be denied the right to visit when we will the graves of our ancestors and friends. Every part of this country is sacred to my people. The very dust under our feet responds to our footsteps because it is the ashes of our ancestors..... At nights when the streets of your cities are silent, they will throng with the hosts that once filled this beautiful land. The white man will never be alone. Let him be just and deal kindly with my people, for the dead are not powerless."